

# Art Department



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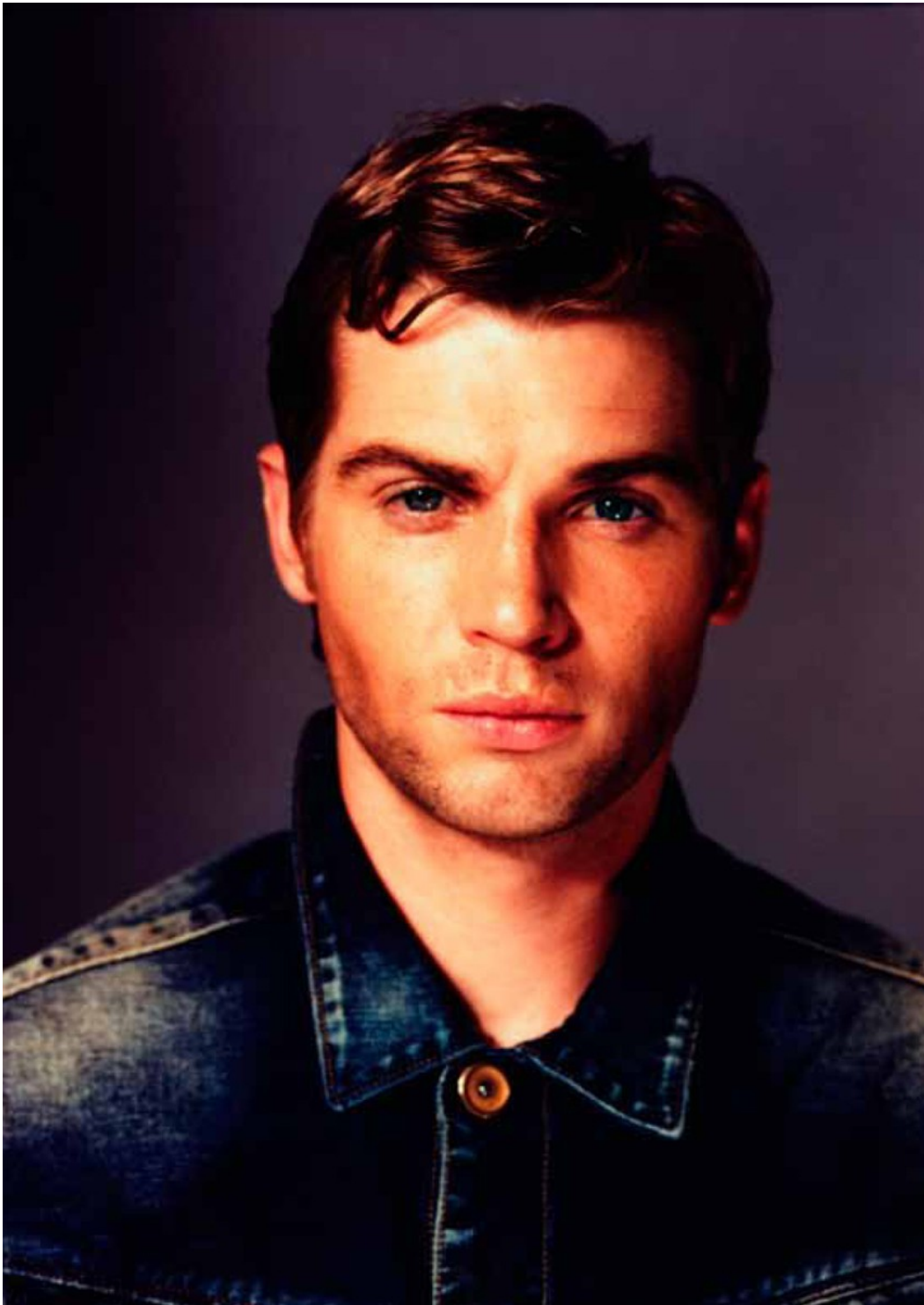
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**SAN FRANCISCO  
LOVE STORY**

Before founding Belle and Sebastian, Stuart Murdoch came here to get healthy. He left with songs, skills, and a promise to return with a band.

**BY IAN S. PORT**

**IT** was January 1993 in Glasgow, and Stuart Murdoch was sick. Bedridden with chronic fatigue syndrome, the frail 24-year-old had already dropped out of university and quit working. In the midst of that damp and dark Scottish winter, no longer able to afford heat for his flat, Murdoch decided to head somewhere warm. Hoping a move would strengthen his health, he drained his savings and bought a plane ticket to a place he had never been: San Francisco. He didn't know then that this city would shape the course of his life, that it would lead him to learn the guitar, or offer his first chance to perform for American audiences. He didn't know San Francisco would help inspire him to form a band that would make him famous. But then Murdoch didn't know much about where he was going at all. It was the first time he had ever left Scotland.

"I realized pretty fast [San Francisco] is my kind of town," Murdoch explains late one recent night, his singsong accent making the trip sound like one of the aimless rambles in his songs.

These days, Murdoch is the lead singer and songwriter of Belle and Sebastian, arguably the greatest musical export of his native land in the last 20 years: a quirky indie-rock band known for its delicate, poetic pop, devoured with cultish obsession by its fans and dismissed as wimpy and self-indulgent by its detractors. >>p14

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**SF WEEKLY**

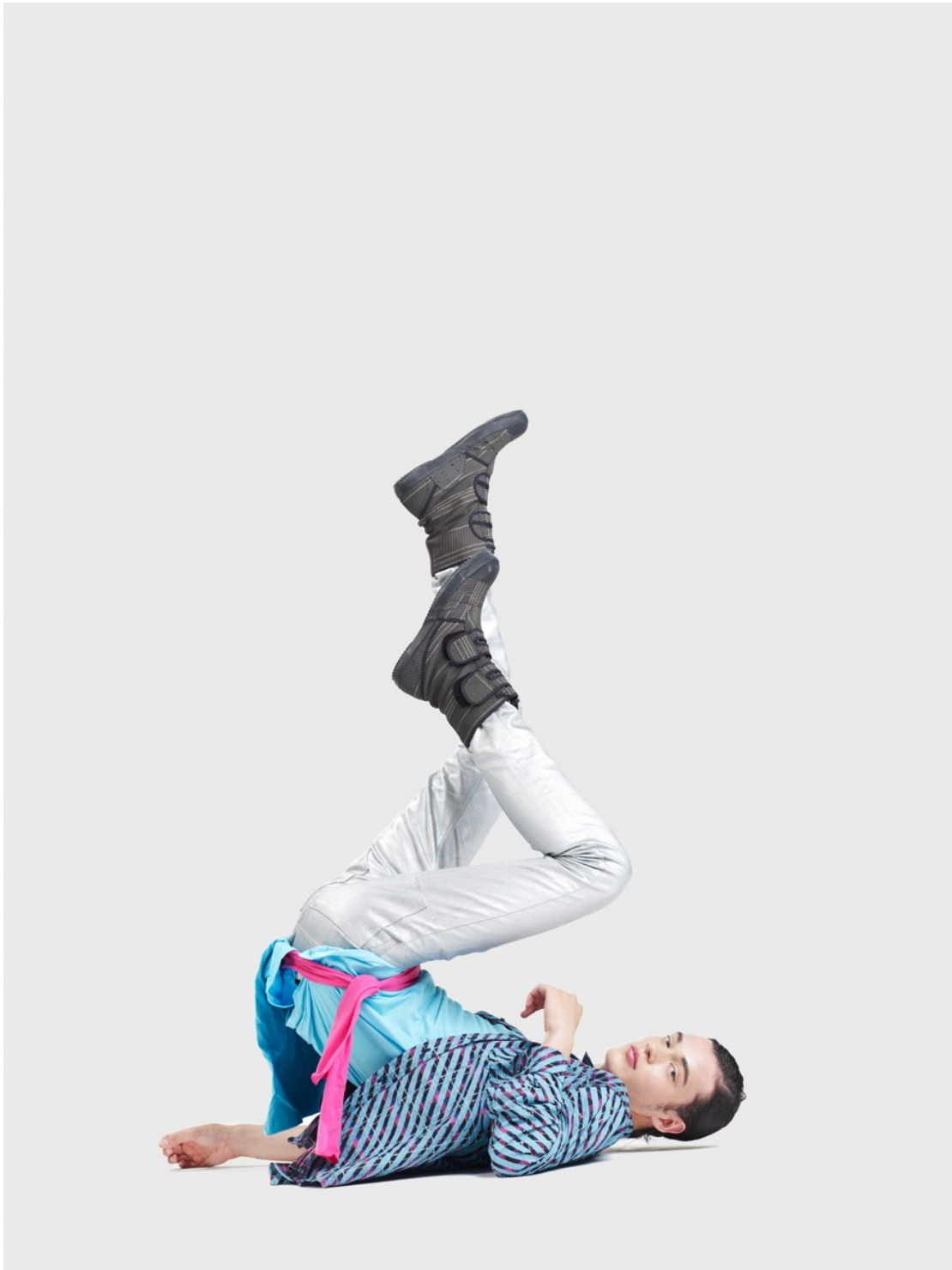
OCTOBER 13-OCTOBER 19, 2010

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LOVE BRIGADE pants • LOST ART fur hat & cape • NICHOLAS K leather coat from LifeCurated  
Vintage boots from 10 Ft. Single by Stella Dallas • Camo vest from Feltraiger

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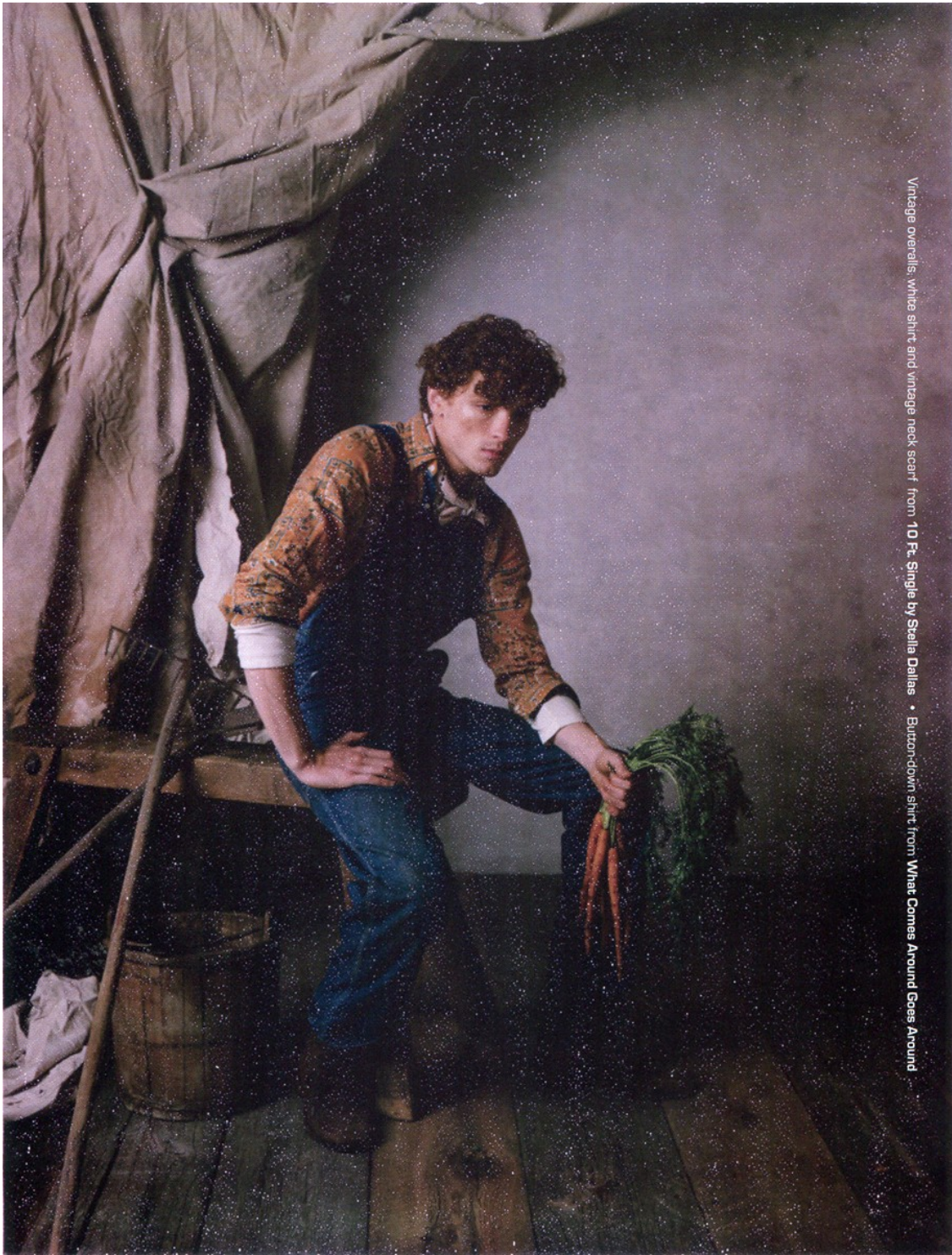
NICHOLAS K. white jacket from LifeCurated • YIGAL AZROUEL blue coat • SHIPLEY & HALMOS white striped shirt & jeans  
BROOKLYN DENIM COMPANY knit cap • WOOLRICH WOOLEN MILLS blue vest

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Vintage overalls, white shirt and vintage neck scarf from 10 Ft. Single by Stella Dallas • Burton-down shirt from What Comes Around Goes Around

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